

NEWS RELEASE



United States Department of Agriculture NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE Hawaii Field Office 300 Ala Moana Blvd., Honolulu HI 96850

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USDA NASS INTERVIEWS FARMERS AND RANCHERS IN HAWAII TO PREPARE FOR 2017 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

HONOLULU, HAWAII – The Census of Agriculture is coming in December and to prepare, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will visit Hawaii farm and ranch properties now through the end of June. The agency will conduct an area survey across Hawaii to determine crop acreage and livestock inventories for 2017 to make sure every farm is counted for the Census of Agriculture later this year.

"When farmers and ranchers participate in the area survey in May and June, they provide essential information that helps us determine the prospective production and supply of major commodities in Hawaii for the 2017 crop year," said Kathy King, Hawaii State Statistician. This year, the area survey is especially important because it will ensure there is coverage of every farm for the Census of Agriculture. King added, "With the information from the area survey in Hawaii, we will have the most accurate and reliable data in the Census of Agriculture, covering key demographics, crop diversity, and value of production."

For the area survey, agency representatives visit randomly selected tracts of land and interview the operators of any farm or ranch on that land. Growers provide information on their crop acreage, farm demographics, livestock inventory, and value of sales. King emphasized, "Everyone involved in Hawaii agriculture looks forward to the Census of Agriculture data, which provides the complete picture of farming and ranching in our state. With everyone participating in this area survey, we will have top quality data for the Census of Agriculture."

Farmers can be assured all individual information provided to NASS is confidential and only used for statistical purposes as required by law. For more

information on NASS surveys and reports in Hawaii, please give Kathy King a call at the NASS Pacific Region-Hawaii Field Office at 1-808-522-8080. All reports are available on the NASS website: http://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications.

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